

Remarks

A. Pending Claims

Claims 1-11 have been rejected. Claims 14 and 16 are allowed. Claims 12, 13 and 15 have been objected to. Claims 1, 10 and 11 have been amended. Claims 1, 3, 5-11, 13, 15, 17 and 19 are pending.

B. Information Disclosure Statement

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that listing of references in the Search Report was not considered to be an information disclosure statement (IDS) complying with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2). Applicant is submitting IDS concurrent with the filing of this response.

C. Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 13 and 15 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 as being substantial duplicates of claims 14 and 16. Applicant respectfully disagrees, however, to expedite prosecution, Applicant has canceled claims 14 and 16.

D. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed recitation of a use without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process. Claims 1, 10 and 11 have been amended to recite additional features. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-11 are proper under 35 U.S.C. §101.

E. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

In the Office Action, the Examiner appears to have rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as indefinite. Claims 1, 10 and 11 have been amended to recite additional features. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-11 are not indefinite.

F. Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 14 and 16 are allowed. Further, the Examiner stated that claims 12, 13 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

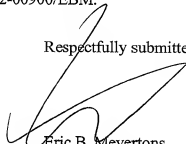
Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Pursuant to the claim amendments discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims, including the base claims, are in condition for allowance.

G. Conclusion

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5682-00900/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,



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